

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph on page 1, lines 3-22, as follows:

Chronic inflammatory diseases such as, for example, allergic asthma and rheumatoid arthritis, are mediated by inflammation cells such as T-cells and phagocytes. At the location of an inflammation in an organ cytokines are formed. A part of the cytokines diffuses to the peripheral blood where they are involved in the mobilization of new inflammation cells. These inflammation cells are preactivated through an interaction with a cytokine. The extent of preactivation of phagocytes is correlated with the amount of inflammation-promoting cytokines and thus with the extent of the inflammation reaction. Especially for diseases localized in organs such as the lung and the intestines (for example with Crohn's disease) it is physically very difficult or impossible to reliably determine the severity of an inflammation without invasive examination. In addition, invasive examination through a ~~biopt~~ biopsy only gives information on the conditions in the ~~biopt~~ biopsy itself. Reliable determination of the severity of an inflammation is in particular difficult because until now no antigens specific for a preactivated phagocyte have been found.

Please amend the paragraph on page 1, lines 27-34, as follows:

It has been found that the ~~thus~~ characterized antigen, which is present on the surface of a phagocyte, is specific for a preactivated phagocyte. By establishing the presence of the antigen, and in particular the amount thereof, the presence of an inflammation and its severity can be determined. At least partially purified antigen, or a fragment thereof, may be used for obtaining preactivated phagocyte-recognizing agents.